

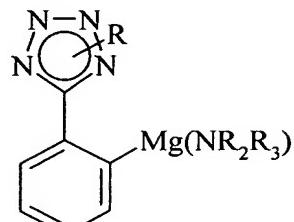
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein,

R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group, and a salifying group, and
R₂ and R₃ are one of (i) the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of a straight or a branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group, a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl group, and a trialkylsilyl group and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are linked form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur R, R₂ and R₃ are as defined in claim 1.

12. (currently amended) A compound as defined in
~~which is, which is:~~ The compound according to claim 11,
wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting
of:

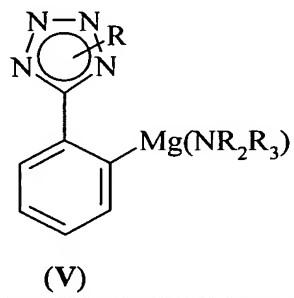
- 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;
- 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide; [[or]] and
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

13. (currently amended) A method of ~~using a compound~~
~~of formula (V) for the preparation of~~ preparing a compound of
formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), comprising:

~~preparing the compound of formula (I) from the~~
~~compound of formula (V), wherein,~~

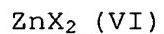
reacting the compound of formula (V) with one of a
compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) to form a
compound of formula (II),

the compound of formula (V) being



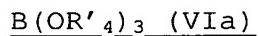
where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group, and a salifying group, and R₂ and R₃ are one of (i) the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of a straight or a branched C₁-C₆ alkyl group, a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl group, and a trialkylsilyl group and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are linked form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur,

the compound of formula (VI) being



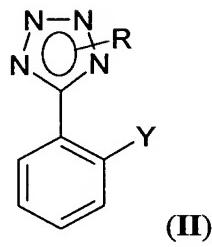
where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

the compound of formula (VIa) being



where each R'₄ is independently a C₁-C₆ alkyl group, and

the compound of formula (II) being

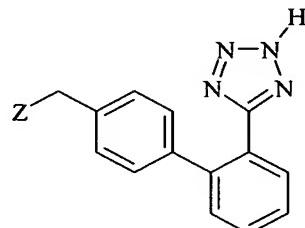


where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group and a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX group and (ii) a -B(OR₄)₂, X is a halogen atom selected from the

group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'₄
is independently a C₁-C₆ alkyl group;

optionally hydrolyzing the resulting bornic ester
of formula (II); and

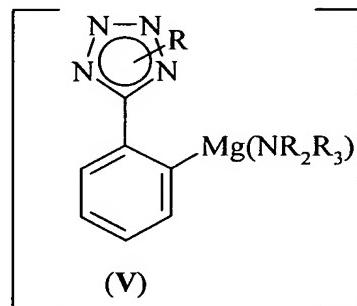
producing the compound of formula (I) from the
compound of formula (II), the compound of formula (I) [[is]]
being



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of (i) an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom and (ii) an amido residue,

~~the compound of formula (V) is~~



~~where R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group, and R₂ and R₃, are one of (i) the same or different, are straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a~~

~~saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur.~~

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein in the compound of formula (I) the residue Z is selected from:

2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-imidazol-1-yl;
2-ethoxy-7-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl;
2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4,4]non-1-en-4-on-3-yl; and
(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoylamino.

15. (canceled)

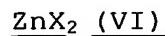
16. (currently amended) A method of ~~using a compound of formula (V) for the preparation of~~ preparing a compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), comprising:

~~preparing the compound of formula (I) from the compound of formula (V), wherein,~~
reacting the compound of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) to form a compound of formula (II),

the compound of formula (V) being selected from the group consisting of: 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl

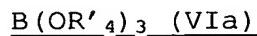
magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide,

the compound of formula (VI) being



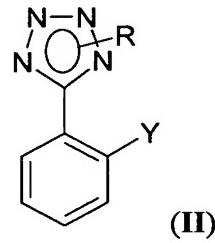
where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

the compound of formula (VIa) being



where each R'_4 is independently a C₁-C₆ alkyl group, and

the compound of formula (II) being

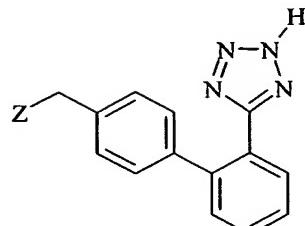


where R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a protecting group and a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX group and (ii) a -B(OR₄)₂, X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'_4 is independently a C₁-C₆ alkyl group;

optionally hydrolyzing the resulting bornic ester of formula (II); and

producing the compound of formula (I) from the

compound of formula (II), the compound of formula (I) [[is]]
being



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of (i) an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom and (ii) an amido residue, and

~~the compound of formula (V) is selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.~~

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) is carried out at a stoichiometric ratio from 1.0 to 5.0 of [[a]] the one of compound of formula (VI) [[or]] and the compound of (VIa) to [[a]] the compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.0 to 5.0.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges is from 1.1 to 3.0.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of formula (V) with one of a compound of formula (VI) and a compound of (VIa) is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.